

REMARKS:

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowability of claims 17, 19, 20, 23, 24 and 27. According to the Examiner's suggestion, the claims have been amended as follows:

Claim 14 as amended above now incorporates the limitations of claims 15, 16 and 17. Since the Examiner indicates that claim 17 is allowable, claim 14 as amended above should be allowable.

Claim 15-18 have been cancelled.

Claim 19 as amended above now incorporates the limitations of claim 14. Since the Examiner indicates that claim 19 is allowable if written in independent form, claim 19 should now be allowable.

Claim 20 depends from claim 19 as amended above. Therefore, claim 20 should be allowable.

Claim 21 depends from claim 14 as amended above. Therefore, claim 21 should be allowable.

Claim 22 has been cancelled.

Claim 23 as amended above now incorporates the limitations of claims 14 and 21. Since the Examiner indicates that claim 23 is allowable if written in independent form, claim 23 should now be allowable.

Claim 24 depends from claim 23 as amended above. Therefore, claim 24 should be allowable.

Claim 25 as amended above incorporates the limitation of claim 15 and depends from claim 19 as amended above. Therefore, claim 25 should now be allowable.

Claim 26 depends from claim 25 as amended above. Therefore, claim 26 should be allowable.

Claim 27 has been cancelled.

Claim 28 depends from claim 14 as amended above. Therefore, claim 28 should be allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

/Tadashi Horie/

Tadashi Horie

Registration No. 40,437

Attorney for Applicant(s)

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. Box 10395
Chicago, IL 60610
(312) 321-4200